MARVEL COMICS
THE PUNISHER
$1.50 US
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16
MAY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YES I KILLED YOUR GIRLFRIEND...
WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
TOM MORGAN
DIRECT EDITION

SKIN TONE'S PERFECT, JAKE... BUT ALL THE SYNAPSES ARE SUPER CONDUCTORS -- YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO THE FASTER REACTIONS.
THE TUNGSTEN POLYMER CHASSIS HOUSES MICRO-FUSION MOTORS, SO -- OF COURSE -- IT WILL BE A LOT STRONGER.
ANY DIS-COMFORT?
ONLY JAKE GALLOWS FEELS PAIN. DISCOMFORT MEANS NOTHING TO THE PUNISHER.
JAKE... QUIT TALKING LIKE THAT.
LIKE WHAT...? OH -- THAT WASN'T ME... THAT WAS THE PUNISHER.
LOOK, YOU'RE WORRYING ME... WORRYING ME. CAN YOU STOP THIS JAKE AND PUNISHER ROUTING? YOU TALK ABOUT YOURSELF AS THOUGH YOU'RE TWO PEOPLE.
MATT... YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT BELIEVE ME, WE NEED THE PUNISHER RIGHT NOW...
HE'S DISCOVERED THE FEARMASTER IS A FOURTH ENCOUNTERIST AT A TEMPLE OF THE IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT...
WE CAN'T WAIT FOR SUNDAY SERVICE.
SUNDAY IS THE DAY OF PUNISH-MENT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE...?
ECO-COPS -- THEY'RE ARRESTING TWO DEGENS...
GET THIS RUBBISH BACK IN ITS BIN!
ECO-ALPHA NINER TO ALCHEMAX GENE CONTROL. HAVE LOCATED ESCAPEES -- TEST SUBJECTS HX3 AND HX5. LIQUIDATE OR RETURN?
RETURN. WE HAVEN'T FINISHED THE HORMONE EXTRACTION PROCESS YET.
WE'RE NOT NUMBERS! WE'RE PEOPLE! JYM AND CLEERE!
WE LOVE EACH OTHER! SURELY WE HAVE SOME RIGHTS? IS IT SO WRONG TO...
ALCHEMAX OWNS YOUR COPY-RIGHT... YOU'RE JUST BODIES FOR SCIENCE AND COMMERCE!
WAAK!

HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD FASHIONED *PUNISHMENT* ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT *JAKE GALLOWS*... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE *PUBLIC EYE* POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out -- because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out -- because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out -- because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for me -- and there was no-one left to speak out for me.

PASTOR NIEMOELLER

ISN'T IT SHOCKING? WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO THESE DAYS?

BUT THEY ARE ACTING WITHIN THE LAW!

WE DON'T MAKE THE RULES... BUT WE HAVE TO LIVE BY THEM!

DON'T MAKE WAVES!

HEY-- WHAT CAN I DO? I WORK FOR ALCHEMAX. BE MORE THAN MY JOB'S WORTH!

YOU CAN'T KICK THE SYSTEM WITHOUT PAYING!

THE PUBLIC ENEMY FILE

PART TWO

SILENCE OF THE SHEEP

PAT MILLS · TONY SKINNER — WRITERS
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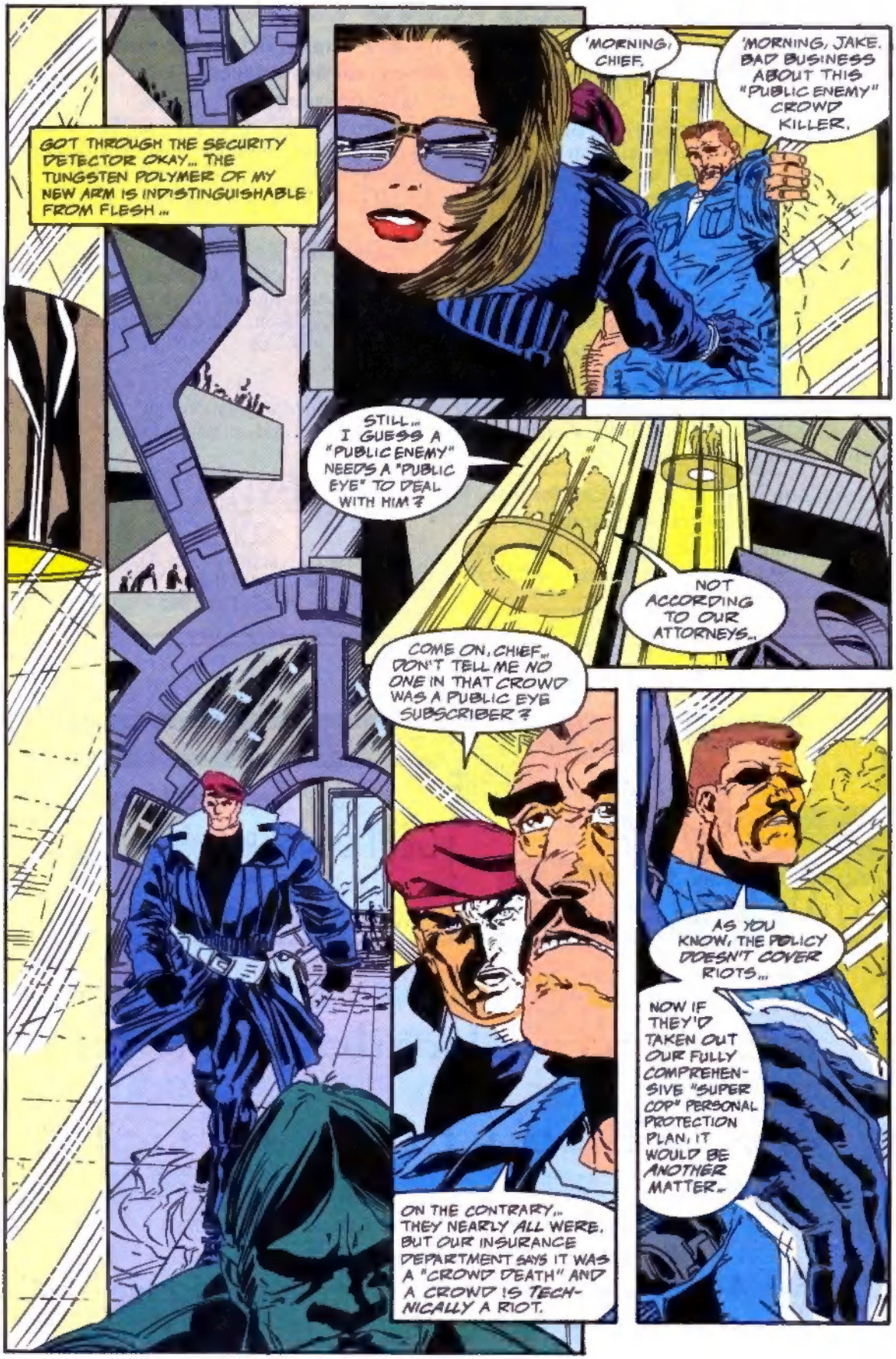
LET THEM GO.
YOU INTERFERING WITH AN OFFICER IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY? YOU SOME KIND OF... DEGEN LOVER?
WAIT A MINUTE, KYLLE...
...I RECOGNIZE THIS GUY...IT'S THAT RED DOG...
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'M THE... PUBLIC ENEMY!

YOU MURDERING @#$%&*!
OH, SHOCK! YOU'RE BULLET-PROOF! YOU REALLY ARE A RED DOG!
URGHK!
YEAH, I REALLY AM!

HOLY @$#&! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WE DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE DONE, BUT THAT WAS GOING TOO FAR.
YES--WE ALL CARE ABOUT THESE ISSUES BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE!
YOU CLICHE-RIDDEN COWARDLY SHEEP!
HAPPY TO STAND ON THE SIDE-WALK AND WATCH THE SHOW...WHILE SOMEONE ELSE DOES YOUR DIRTY WORK!
HEY--DON'T TURN ON US...WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, MAN, OKAY?
EXACTLY. AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TO BLAME.
YOU'RE THE PROBLEM... YOU'RE THE GUILTY ONES!
AND I AM THE ULTIMATE HERO! THE ONE WHO DEALS WITH THE REAL VILLAINS...!
THE DISGUSTING, SELF-RIGHTEOUS, SPINELESS, WHINING PUBLIC!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

GO ON, RUN SHEEP! BAAA! BAAA! BAAAA!
RUN BACK INTO YOUR MISERABLE LIVES--CLOSE YOUR DOORS AND CLOSE YOUR MINDS! BLOCK OUT THE NASTY REAL WORLD!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED OF ME, I'M ON YOUR SIDE... WHERE WERE YOU GUYS GOING, ANYWAY?
WE...WE'D HEARD OF MATT AXEL'S HOSTEL... WHERE WE COULD FIND SANCTUARY.
BUT MATT'S PLACE IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
WELL, WE THOUGHT IF WE JUST KEPT WALKING LONG ENOUGH, WE'D GET THERE EVENTUALLY.
COME ON. I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.


GOT THROUGH THE SECURITY DETECTOR OKAY... THE TUNGSTEN POLYMER OF MY NEW ARM IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM FLESH...
'MORNING, CHIEF.
'MORNING, JAKE. BAD BUSINESS ABOUT THIS "PUBLIC ENEMY" CROWD KILLER.
STILL... I GUESS A "PUBLIC ENEMY" NEEDS A "PUBLIC EYE" TO DEAL WITH HIM?
NOT ACCORDING TO OUR ATTORNEYS...
COME ON, CHIEF... DON'T TELL ME NO ONE IN THAT CROWD WAS A PUBLIC EYE SUBSCRIBER?
ON THE CONTRARY... THEY NEARLY ALL WERE. BUT OUR INSURANCE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT WAS A "CROWD DEATH" AND A CROWD IS TECHNICALLY A RIOT.
AS YOU KNOW, THE POLICY DOESN'T COVER RIOTS...
NOW IF THEY'D TAKEN OUT OUR FULLY COMPREHENSIVE "SUPER COP" PERSONAL PROTECTION PLAN, IT WOULD BE ANOTHER MATTER...

AND, AFTER ALL, IT WAS THE ECO-GUYS HE KILLED--NOT OUR DEPARTMENT..
ER... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HAND, JAKE? WHAT'S IT DOING ON YOUR GUN...?
MY HAND...?
IT'S THE PUNISHER... HE'S IN MY ARM... HE WANTS TO TAKE CONTROL AND PUNISH THE CHIEF!
HE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE'S SAYING-- HE WANTS TO BLOW HIM AWAY!
GOT TO FIND MATT.
EAGER TO GET TO WORK. CATCH YOU LATER, CHIEF.
YEAH, SURE THING.
MATT AXEL
RESEARCH TECHNIQU
SPECIAL WEAPONS DEPT.
AH, JAKE, GLAD YOU'RE HERE. WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS... DOING A BIT OF PUNISHER WORK IN OFFICE TIME... IT'S CALLED THE SKY SHARK...
SHOULD BE READY IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS.
NEVER MIND THAT, MATT... YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MY ARM... THE PUNISHER'S POSSESSED IT!

NO... LOOKS FINE TO ME... FINE.
ER, JAKE... HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TALKING TO THE PRECINCT'S PARA-PSYCH, ANNE ROBBYNS...?
OH, SORRY... THAT WAS INSENSITIVE OF ME... I FORGOT ABOUT KERRY...
I HAVEN'T, OR THE FACT THAT I HAVE A DATE WITH HER MURDERER THIS SUNDAY.
CAREFUL, JAKE... FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, THIS FEARMASTER IS NO ORDINARY VILLAIN.
I'LL [redacted] WORKING AT THE HOSTEL OV[redacted]R THE WEEKEND IF YOU NEED ME.
I ALSO WANT TO FIND THE PUBLIC ENEMY... IF THE DEPART-MENT WON'T BRING HIM TO JUSTICE, THE PUNISHER WILL!
ER... YEAH, THE MURDERING SCUM.
HE MOWED ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE DOWN IN COLD BLOOD... JUST THE WAY KRON SLAUGH-TERED MY FAMILY...
...MOM... BALDUR... AND ASTRA.*
* SEE PUNISHER 2099 #1

Temple of the Identified Flying Object
Sunday Service
Darryl King
FELLOW STAR-WATCHERS. WE WHO AWAIT THE COMING OF THE CRYSTAL BEINGS FROM THE GALAXY--ONCE AGAIN, GREETINGS.
THERE ARE SOME AMONGST YOU WHO HAVE MURMURED DOUBTS...
...HOW, THEY ASK, COULD LOVING AND OMNIPOTENT BEINGS ALLOW SUCH EVIL IN THE WORLD?
WHY DO THEY NOT INTERVENE DIRECTLY AND PUT THE WORLD TO RIGHTS?
AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHO EVEN DOUBT THEIR VERY EXISTENCE... WHO SNEER AT THE IDEA OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLI-GENCES IN 2099.
THE ANSWER IS, THEY BUT AWAIT YOUR MATURITY...THEIR WISDOM IS BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING--OR SHOULD I SAY... YOUR UNDER-STANDING...
AS TO THE SECOND QUESTION, SPACE CADETS ... LORD KELMIZADEK, OMNIPOTENT PROCURATOR OF THIS QUADRANT OF THE GALAXY--HAS AGREED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR!
THE LIGHT!
THE WONDROUS LIGHT!
SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR KELMIZADEK THAT HE FULLY MATERIALIZE ON THIS PLANE... GIVE GENEROUSLY... UN-BURDEN YOURSELF OF MATERIAL WEALTH.

BATHE IN HIS DIVINE RADIANCE! SAVOR YOUR CLOSE ENCOUNTER!
KELMIZADEK!
KELMIZADEK!
KELMIZADEK!
AND PERHAPS THE GENEROUS OF YOU WILL ONE DAY HAVE A FOURTH ENCOUNTER... AND BE GIFTED AS I HAVE!
GET READY FOR A FIFTH ENCOUNTER, FEARMASTER!

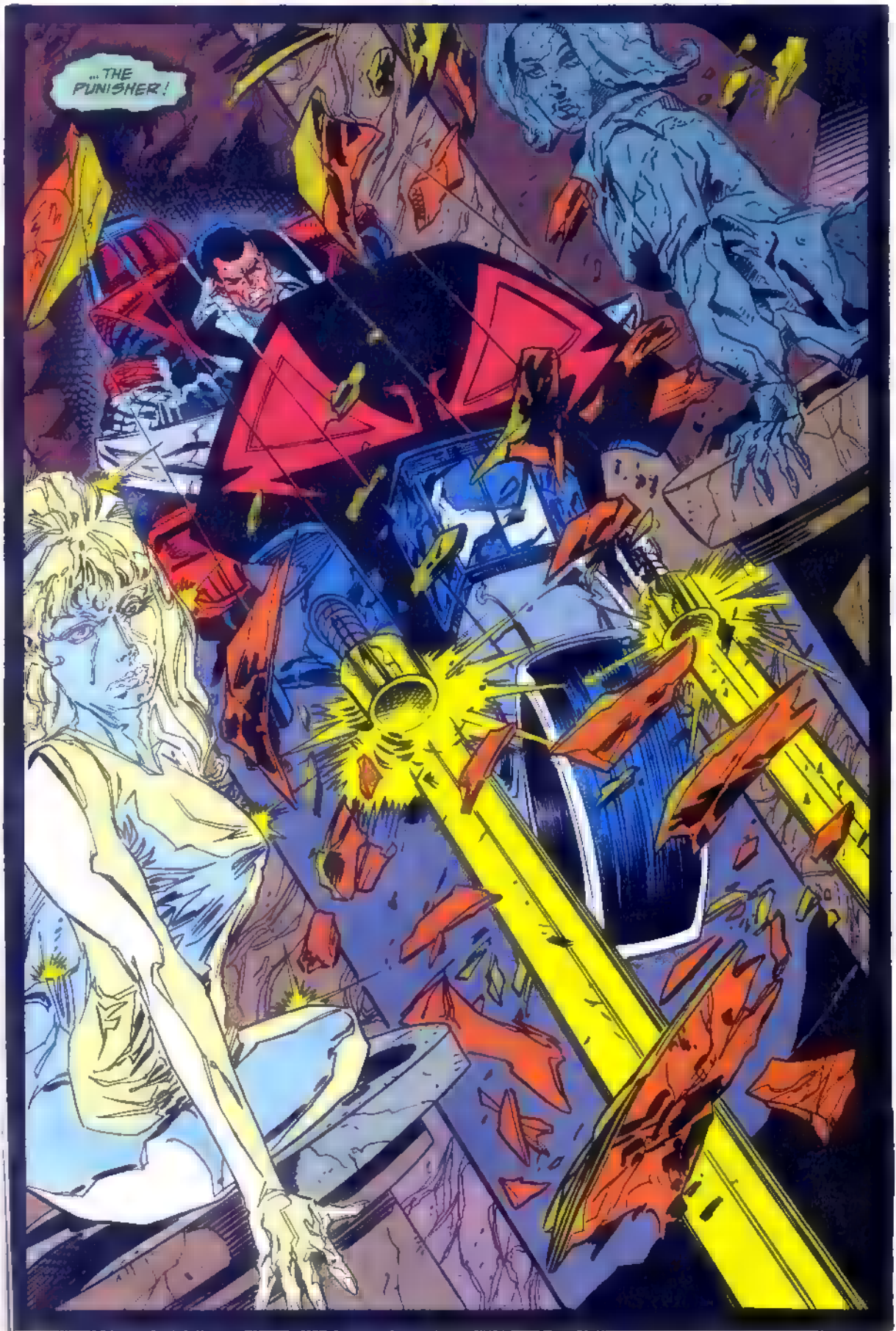
YOU... PUNISHER!
YOU DARE COMMIT SACRILEGE ON THIS HOLY FLIGHT DECK? BEFORE ONE OF THE GREAT ONES THEMSELVES!
OKAY -- YOU'VE GOT AN ENERGY SHIELD...
LET'S SEE HOW IT HANDLES A LOW FREQUENCY, DIRECTIONAL CONCUSSION...
...GRENADE!

STRIKE HIM DOWN, KELMIZADEK! SHOW YOUR POWER!
REDEEM ME BEFORE MY CREW!
NEVER FOUGHT A CRYSTAL BEING BEFORE... WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S REAL... AND I'M NOT SURE HOW TO HANDLE IT...
STRIKE DOWN THE UN-BELIEVER!
THAT THING'S NOT JUST FOR SHOW...
I'D NEED MATT'S SKY SHARK TO CHASE HIM... AND IT'S NOT READY YET.
IT... IT'S FADING AWAY... IT'S DESERTING HIM!
SHOCK! HE'S GETTING INTO THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE POD!
GOTTA FIND OUT WHERE THE FEAR-MASTER'S HEADED... THINK I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH SOME OF HIS "PARISHIONERS"...

HELLO, MATT.
I'VE BROUGHT TWO NEW FRIENDS FOR YOU. CAN YOU LOOK AFTER THEM, MATT?
SABER..? SABER HAGEN..?
SO IT [redacted] YOU WHO SLAUGHTERED ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE
WHEN I HEARD A RED DOG WAS INVOLVED, I HALF SUSPECTED AS MUCH...
I GUESS I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE...
...THE PUBLIC ENEMY!
BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL GUILTY, MATT! GUILTY AS SIN!

MURDERER!
OH, SABER. DID YOU LEARN NOTHING WHEN YOU WERE WITH ME..? NOTHING..?
YES. I LEARNED THAT THERE'S NO JUSTICE IN THE WORLD... YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN...
"...AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATE OF THIS SICK WORLD MUST BE PUNISHED!"
IS THAT ALL? WHAT ABOUT COMPASSION? MERCY? WHAT ABOUT THAT?
SURE. YOU TAUGHT ME COMPASSION. THAT'S WHY I SAVED THESE TWO.
DON'T CONDEMN ME, MATT. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW WHY I DO IT.
SABER... PROMISE ME YOU'LL STOP... BEFORE YOU'RE KILLED!
HAH... I COULD TAKE OUT THE WHOLE PUBLIC EYE ON MY OWN. I'M A RED DOG.
IT'S NOT THE PUBLIC EYE I'M WORRIED ABOUT!

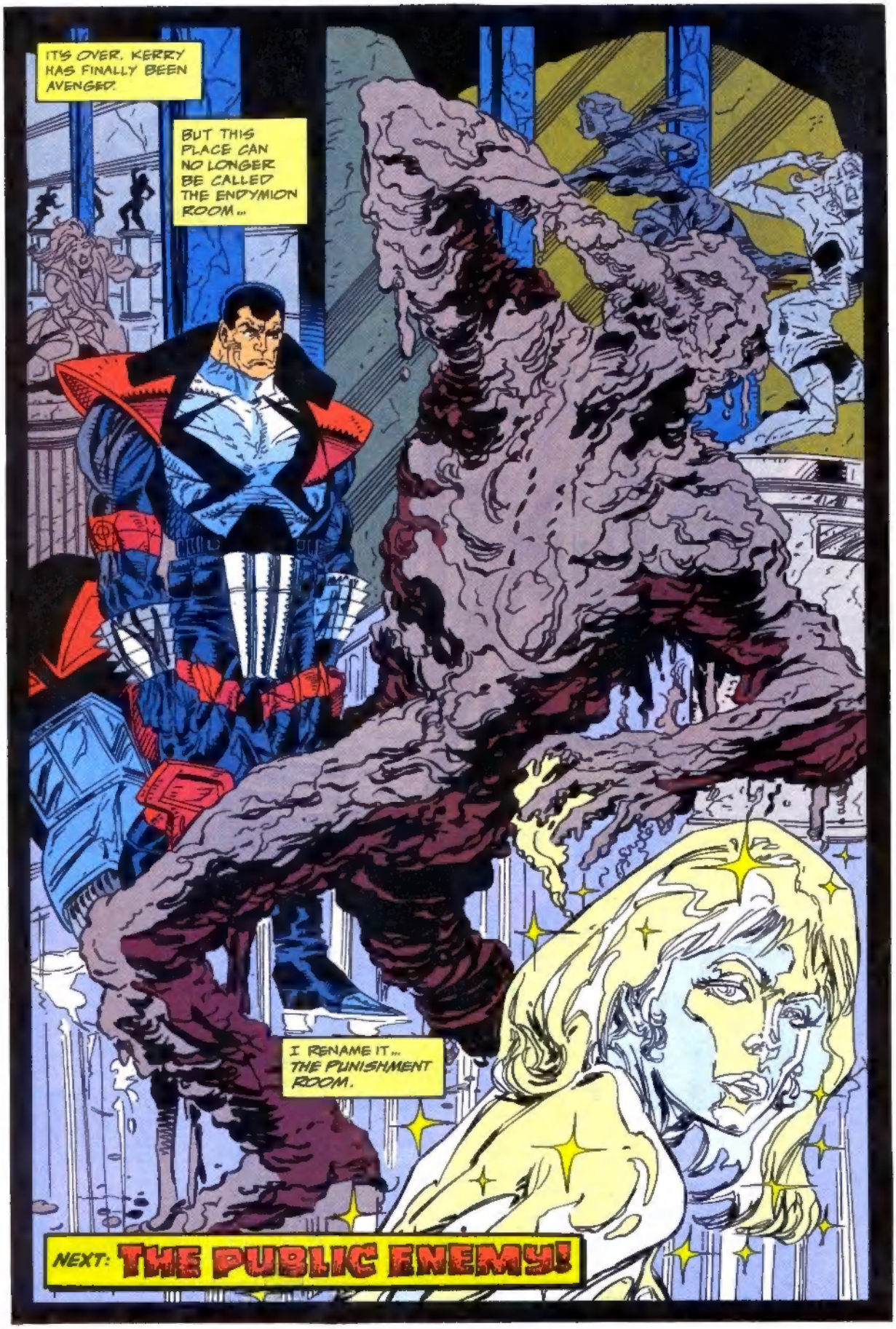
KELMIZADEK...? WHY...? WHY DID YOU DESERT ME?
I NEEDED YOU! YOU COULD HAVE WIPED OUT THE PUNISHER WITH A GESTURE!
IT IS NOT OUR WAY TO DIRECTLY INTERFERE WITH THE LOWER SPECIES, KING.
YOU INTERFERE PLENTY! I'VE OFTEN USED YOU TO IMPRESS MY CONGREGATIONS!
WE USE YOU, KING. YOU DON'T USE US. WE GAVE YOU YOUR HAND SO YOU COULD BEND THE MASSES TO OUR WILL.
DID WE SIMPLY GIVE A GUN TO A CHILD...? WHO IS NO USE TO ANY-ONE AND A DANGER TO HIMSELF?
NOW, LOOK--WE HAD A DEAL! YOU ELEVATED ME AMONGST THE RANKS OF MEN, WHILST I--
YES... THROUGH-OUT EARTH'S HISTORY WE HAVE BUILT UP MANY MESSIAHS AND DICTATORS... AND THEN WE LEAVE THEM TO THEIR INSUFFICIENT HUMANITY.
AS WE MUST LEAVE YOU NOW...
...WE SENSE YOUR NEMESIS APPROACHING.
WE SHALL CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE LATER... IF YOU SURVIVE YOUR MEETING WITH...


...THE PUNISHER!

SO, PUNISHER... WELCOME TO THE ENDYMION ROOM... A PLACE OF BEAUTY --AT LEAST IT WAS BEFORE YOU ARRIVED.
ALL OF THESE ARE LIKE KERRY...! YOU-YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS!
YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO LOOK UPON MY COLLECTION... BUT HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
I "QUESTIONED" SOME OF YOUR FLIGHT CREW BACK AT THE TEMPLE. THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS.
DOES A FLY TRACK DOWN A SPIDER TO HIS WEB...?
YOU HAVE COME HERE TO DIE!
KLANG

MY ONLY REGRET IS YOUR PRECIOUS KERRY ISN'T AMONGST MY COL-LECTION...
I HEARD SOME FOOL SMASHED HER TO PIECES!
YOU @*%!!&!
MAXIMUM DENSITY!
FOR THAT I WILL TURN YOU TO MUD AND SLIME!
DIE, PUNISHER, DIE!

NO!
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE DONE MY WORK FOR ME...
...BY MAKING CONTACT WITH MY HAND I CAN TURN YOU INTO MUD...!
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT CHANGING!
B-BUT IT'S PROGRAMMED TO TRANSFORM FLESH INTO CLAY...!
MY HAND'S NOT FLESH, BUTTHEAD... IT'S POLYMER -- YOU HAD IT CUT OFF, REMEMBER?
AAAGUUK!


IT'S OVER. KERRY HAS FINALLY BEEN AVENGED.
BUT THIS PLACE CAN NO LONGER BE CALLED THE ENDYMION ROOM...
I RENAME IT... THE PUNISHMENT ROOM.
NEXT: THE PUBLIC ENEMY!